



Monday, April 23: Nick and Gary especially looked forward to this part of the trip. We drove about an hour south of Ceprano into the mountains of Molise to visit the home towns of their father and mother. Chiauci was the first town we visited.

Giovanni and Felicetta were kind enough to give us the key to their house in Chiauci. Felicetta called her neighbor, Anina, and asked her to make us welcome. It was pretty obvious that we weren't from Chiauci, so Anina had no trouble spotting us! We enjoyed a cup of very strong coffee with her in her home.



Bettie on the steps and Sharon in the kitchen of Giovanni & Felicetta's house.



Gary, Anina and Nick







On the lower level of the house, we found the wonderful cheese Felicetta wanted us to take.



We had lunch in Chiauci at La Volpe. Nick said "This is the best prosciutto sandwich I ever had in my whole life!"



What luck! It turned out that this was the feast of San Giorgio, Chiauci's patron saint. There was a procession with the locals carrying the statue of San Giorgio out of the church, all the way around the town and then back to the church again.







When the procession reached the church, the statue of San Giorgio was replaced. The priest, Pietro Paulo Monaco from Isernia, spoke a little english and spent some time with us.



When Gary & Nick told Fr. Monaco who their father was, he got someone to open the town clinic (the Ambulatorio Comunale J.F. Kennedy) so we could see the marble plaque with Domenico Rossi's name at the top. Gary remembers playing the accordion at dances at the Italian Hall in Cincinnati in the early 1960's for the fundraisers organized by his dad and others to send money back to Chiauci to build this clinic.







Chiauci is a town of many steps!



As you can see from these pictures, Chiauci perches high on a mountaintop with commanding views of the valley and the surrounding countryside.







After leaving Chiauci, we headed to our mother's home town of Fossalto. We approached it from above, so we got a wonderful view of this beautiful little town. Fossalto is only about 30 minutes from Chiauci.

Fossalto is also on a hilltop, but not the highest hill in the area. The town has very steep streets and lots of steps, like Chiauci, but some of the streets are wider and there are more open piazzas. As you can see by the TV satellite dishes below, it has all the modern conveniences, too!







Sharon & Bettie found a doorway that made them look very tall, and Bettie & Nick had a little trouble standing up straight on a nearly vertical street in Fossalto!





When we left Fossalto, we spotted another hill town called Pietracupa. We couldn't believe how the church seemed to grow right out of the rock, so we parked the car and climbed to the top!



Late Monday afternoon, we left Molise and began our drive up the Adriatic coast towards Venice. We stopped for the night at a seaside town called Fano. The next morning, we took a short walk through the town before driving the last three hours to Venice.

